

"DETECTIVE BUREAU IS DEN OF THEIVES" IS HOYNE STATEMENT—NO REPLY FROM MAYOR

With a record of four high crooks of the police department convicted of graft and conspiracy, with trial of John Halpin, former captain of detectives now on, and trial of Lieut. Tobin of the detective bureau to come, State's Att'y Hoyne gave an interview yesterday. In a nutshell it was something like this:

War in Chicago between police department and state's attorney. Harvest time for con men and swindlers. Police refuse to help state's attorney convict. If state's attorney gets evidence against a police crook, police officials raise a defense fund and the mayor of the city says nothing, but it's all right. The joke is on somebody when the crook is convicted.

"All over the country the underworld has gotten word that the police obstruct the state's attorney's office here," said Hoyne at the University club. "Already the city is full of thieves. Swindlers and confidence men are bolder now than at any time since the world's fair.

"I not only receive no help from the police but they throw every abstacle in my way to prevent crooks being brought to justice.

"My former remark that the detective bureau is a den of thieves still goes."

"The detective bureau has given me good evidence to prosecute murder cases, but when it comes to getting confidence men my office must get the evidence, arrest the swindlers and prosecute them alone and unaided.

"I got no help from the bureau in convicting Detectives 'Bill' Egan and Walter O'Brien. I was able to convict them through the help of two convicted criminals, Jimmy Ryan and Barney Bertsche.

"I got no assistance from the police in the swindling case against

John P. Strosnider, one of the best-known confidence men in the country, and I may add that Capt. Halpin and Detective Walter O'Brien got their 'bit' out of the swindle, I shall prove this at the Halpin trial.

"I see Mayor Thompson says if I wish to investigate the police department, he will see that the door is open for me. I have never asked and never will ask Mayor Thompson for his approval of anything I do as state's attorney. His approval or disapproval is immaterial to me.

"I had hoped that the facts I have presented to him would lead him to investigate the department. I have laid before him proof that the police collected a slush fund for the defense of Detective Walter O'Brien in the clairvoyant cases. That should make it evident that something is rotten and should be enough to prompt a rigorous investigation. It is not my duty to investigate the police. That job is up to the mayor.

"I have written letters to Mayor Thompson and to Chief Healey calling attention to the slush fund. I pointed out to them that P. D. O'Brien, the present captain of detectives, knew about the raising of the defense fund for his nephew, but took no action on it.

"East Chicago is the center of operations for wiretapping games around the city. The crooks who use this 'pay off joint' are aristocrats of crime. They 'play' a 'sucker' sometimes for months before 'trimming' him.

"I can't give even an approximate estimate of what the crooks have cleaned up in East Chicago. I know that Tom Kerwin's 'pay-off joint' that the state's attorney's office closed cleared \$200,000 in three months, and if this is a fair basis for an estimate, the East Chicago operations may have netted close to \$1,000,000 in two years."